# Foundation Training

SECTION 10

Additional Features

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# 1.    Additional Features

This section deals with some aspects of Blue Prism that have not yet been covered.

## 1.1   Safe Stop

When a Process is running in Control Room, the Process can be stopped by selecting the **Process Session** and clicking **Stop Selection**. This will stop the Process immediately. The Item currently being worked will not be completed and Blue Prism will mark it as an Exception at Clean Up.

Environment        Start Selected Sessions        Stop Selected Sessions        Show Session Variables

FIGURE 185: CONTROL ROOM SESSION CONTROLS

**Right-click** a running Process Session to see the stop options; **Immediate Stop** and **Request Stop**.
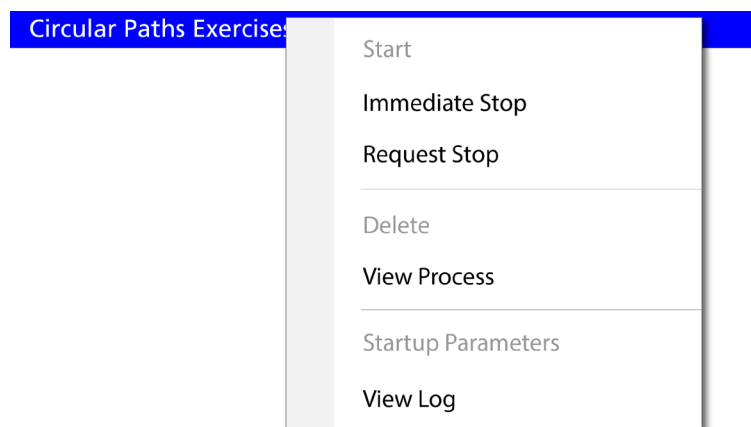


FIGURE 186: CONTEXT MENU FOR RUNNING PROCESSES

**Immediate Stop** is the equivalent of **Stop Selection**. **Request Stop** will ask the Process to stop where there is a configured Safe Stop with the Process.

A Safe Stop can be configured within a Process, by using the inbuilt Environment function **IsStopRequested()** within a Decision Stage.

FIGURE 187: DECISION FOR SAFE STOP REQUEST

Typically, this Decision Stage would be placed prior to the **Get Next Item** Stage. This allows the Process to complete the current Item, before detecting a Safe Stop request and processing accordingly.
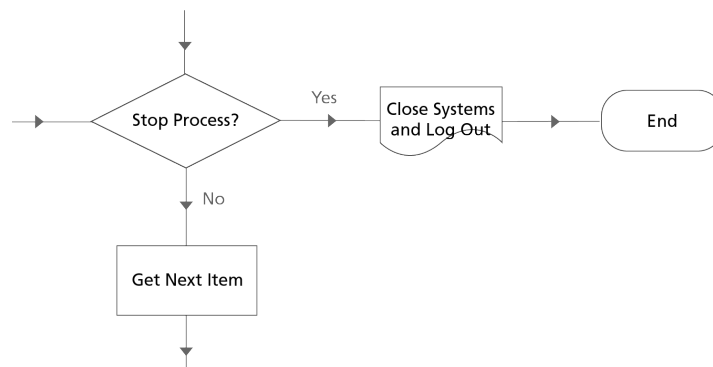


FIGURE 188: PROCESS CHECKING FOR A SAFE STOP REQUEST

## 1.2 Collection Actions

You have seen how to create a Collection and how to use a Loop to access each row. The special *Internal - Collections* Business Object also has other Actions, most of which are self-explanatory.

- Add Row.
- Remove Row.
- Count Rows.
- Count Columns.
- Remove All Rows.
- Copy Rows. Copy Rows is used to generate a new Collection from a subset from another Collection

**Key Point**

◆    The inputs of the *Internal – Collections* Actions ask for the *name* of the Collection, rather than the collection itself. The Data Type of the "Collection Name" input is *Text*, not Collection.

## 1.3   Choice Stage

Like the Decision Stage, the Choice Stage is based on Expressions that result in either *True* or *False* outcomes. The difference is that a Choice Stage can evaluate a series of Expressions, rather than just one. The Choice Stage looks a little like a Wait Stage and works in a similar way, where each Expression creates a separate branch. Expressions are evaluated in top-down order, and the first one found to be *True* takes the flow down that branch. The bottom *Otherwise* branch is taken if none of the Expressions are *True*, much like the Timeout end of a Wait Stage.
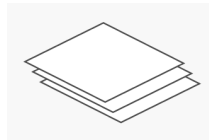


FIGURE 189: CHOICE STAGE TOOLBAR BUTTON
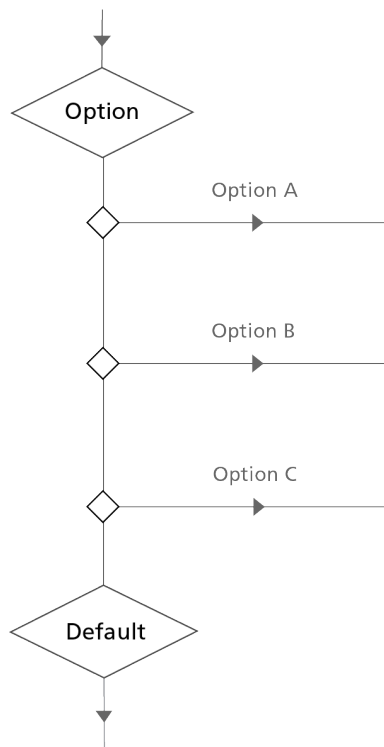


FIGURE 190: CHOICE STAGE
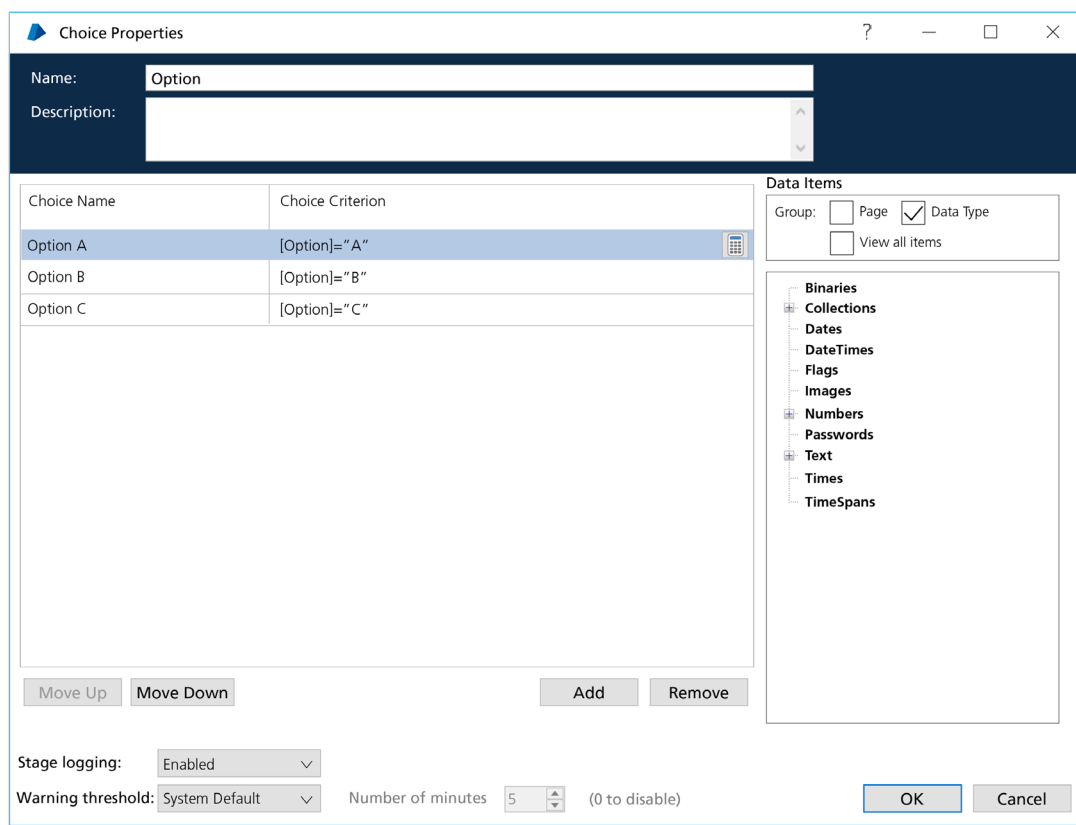
FIGURE 191: CHOICE STAGE PROPERTIES

## 1.4 Warning Thresholds

In Version 6 or newer of Blue Prism, all Stages can be configured with a Warning Threshold. By default, should the time taken to execute a Stage within a Process exceed the Threshold configured in System Settings, then the status of the Session will be changed to 'Warning' and highlighted as such in Control Room. However, the Warning Threshold can be overridden at an individual Stage level if required, perhaps to accommodate an expected delay during Process execution. Setting the Warning Threshold to *0 minutes* disables the feature for this Stage.



FIGURE 192: WARNING THRESHOLD

## 1.5 Logging

Blue Prism can log the details of Stages used in Processes and Business Objects. By default, Stages used in Process Studio are logged and those in Object Studio are not. This can easily be changed by modifying the properties of a Stage, selection of Stages or all Stages. Nearly all Stage properties windows have a combo box with the Stage logging options; Enabled, Disabled and Errors Only. Errors Only will log the Stage only if an error is Thrown when the Stage runs.
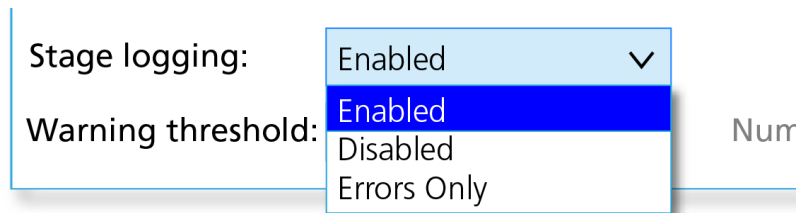
FIGURE 193: STAGE LOGGING OPTIONS

Alternatively, the menu commands *Edit > Selected Stages > and Edit > All Stages* can be used to modify the Stage logging of more than one Stage at a time.
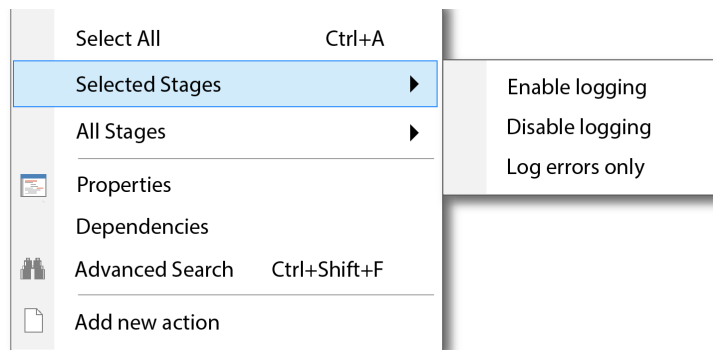


FIGURE 194: LOGGING MENU

Page Information Stages are not logged and Data Items are only logged when their values are used as Inputs and Outputs.

## Key Points

- The decision as to which Stages are logged and which are not should not be overlooked.

- Logs are particularly useful during a test phase as a means to investigate bugs.

- However, a live Process running all day can put a vast amount of logs into the database, the maintenance and back up of which should be considered.

- The security or legal implications of storing sensitive data are also something to think about.

## 1.6    Log Viewer

The Log Viewer is used to inspect the Session Log, either as it is running or after it has finished. This is especially handy for reviewing the workings of a progress and tracking down problems.

The Log Viewer has a search function enabling you to look through the (often numerous) rows of a log and the visibility of columns can be configured to suit.



FIGURE 195: LOG VIEWER

## 1.7    System Manager

As the name suggests, System Manager is where Blue Prism's own settings are kept. Some of the tasks that can be performed are as follows:

• Create and maintain user accounts, roles, and permissions.

• Retire resources, Processes, and Business Objects.

• View Process or Business Object change history.

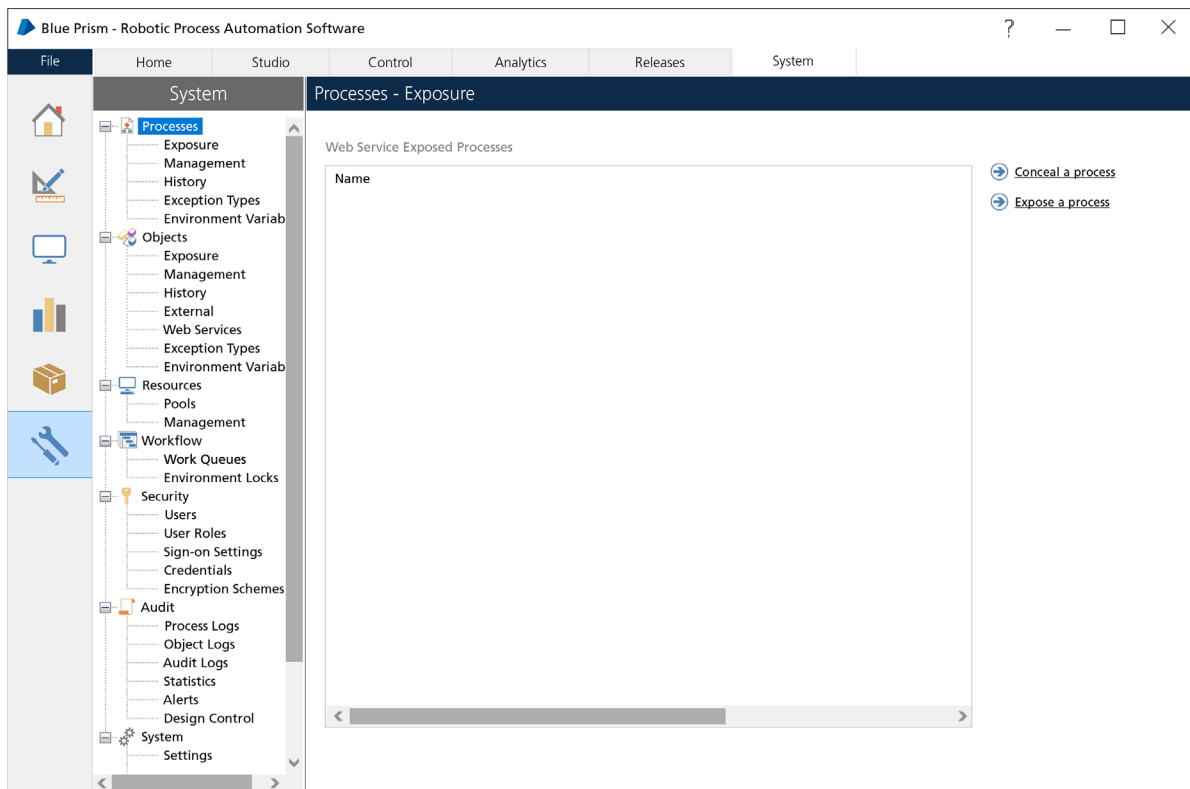• Manage web services.

• Manage Work Queues.

FIGURE 196: SYSTEM MANAGER

## 1.8 Process / Business Object Grouping

Processes and Business Objects can be arranged into groups in order to simplify and tidy the lists used in the Blue Prism application. Groupings have no effect on the Processes or Objects themselves. They are moved to and from groups by using drag and drop in System Manager. You can create groups by *right-clicking* on either **Processes** or **Objects** in the Studio tab.
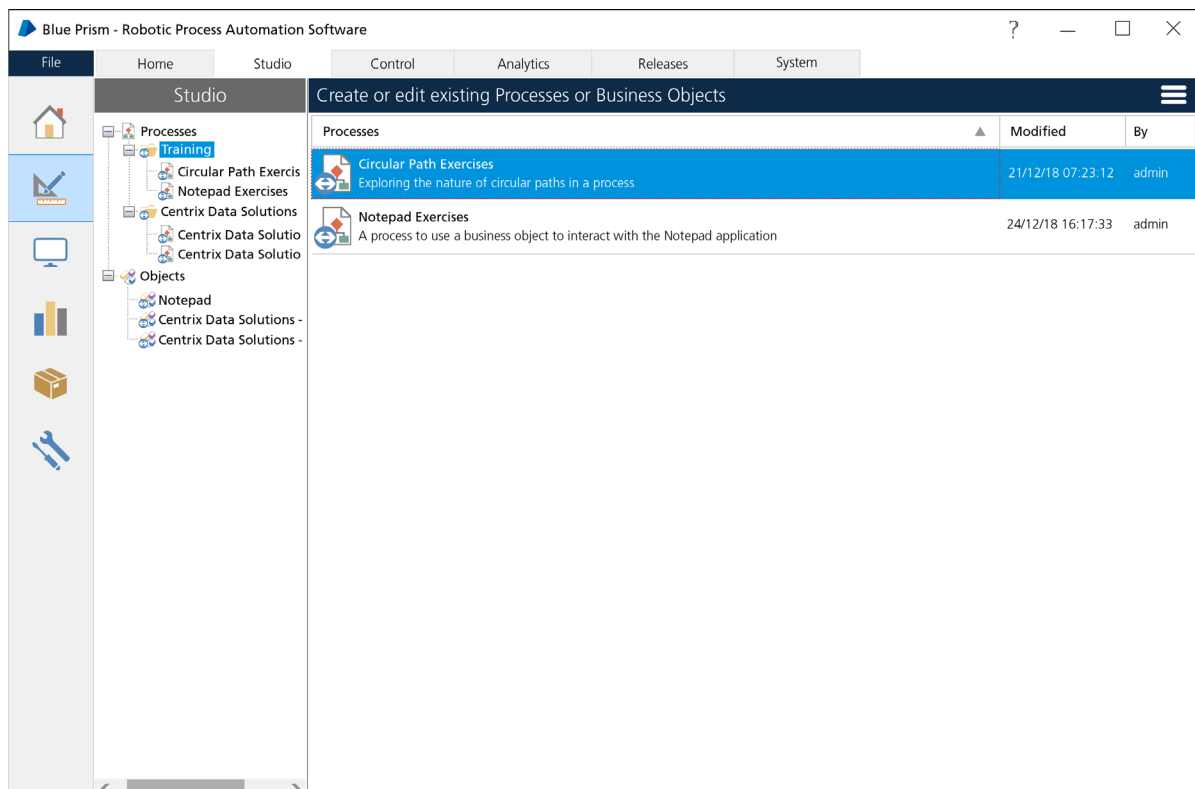


FIGURE 197: PROCESS GROUPING

## 1.9    Process and Object References

You can view what Processes and Business Object are using a particular Process or Business Object by finding references.  To find references of a select Process or Business Object in Studio, click the *hamburger icon* at the top-right and select ***Find References***
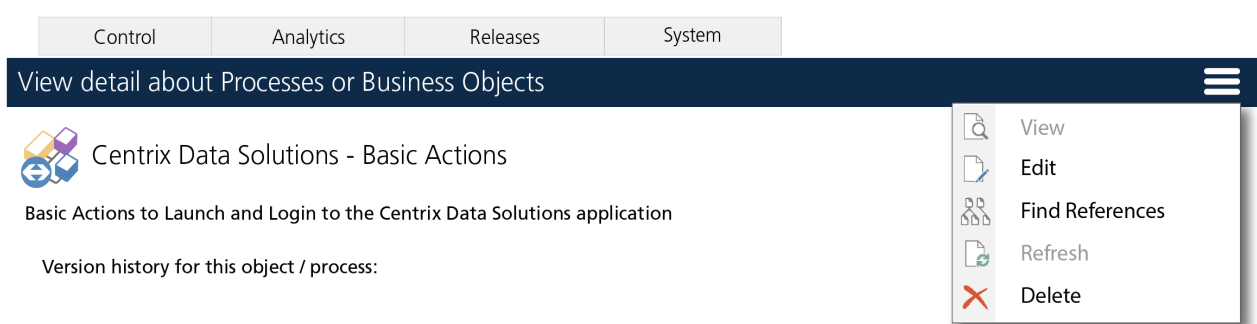


FIGURE 198: USE THE HAMBURGER MENU TO FIND REFERENCES

This will return a list of where the Process/Business Object is used.



FIGURE 199: LIST OF FOUND REFERENCES